

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are pending in this application, with Claim 1, 8, 11 and 14 being independent. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 8, 11, and 14 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,155,051 to Murakawa. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,155,051 to Murakawa in view of Official Notice. Claims 3, 10, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,155,051 to Murakawa in and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,144,835 to Inoue et. al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of converting a color space of an image which is output from a device driver of an image input-output device into a common color space used in an OS of the host computer, converting a resolution of the image which is output from the device driver into a common resolution, determining the extent of a match between a particular image and an image converted into the common color space and the common resolution, and controlling processing of the image output from the device driver based on the extent of the match, wherein a color space conversion unit, resolution conversion unit, determination unit, and image processing control unit are running on the OS, and the color space conversion unit, the resolution conversion unit, the determination unit, and the image processing control unit are constructed independently of the device driver of the input-output device.

With these features, a determination unit can be constructed that reduces memory usage. In particular, even if the number of image input-output devices (e.g., printer, scanner, etc.) connected to the system is increased, it is not necessary to provide the system with a new input-output device determination unit. Instead, the determination unit of the host computer OS can be used, since the color space conversion unit and resolution conversion unit convert the color space and resolution of an image output by the device driver of an image input-output device to a common color space and a common resolution.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1. Murakawa (USP. 7155051) discloses an image recognition apparatus which detects a specific pattern from a binarized image converted from an input multi-level color image. It is also disclosed that the apparatus converts the input multi-level image into a low-resolution multi-color image, and binarizes the low-resolution multi-color image. However, that patent does not disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1.

Inoue (USP. 6144835) discloses an image forming apparatus which includes means for warning an operator of a potential illegal copying. Inoue discloses the technique to confirm for full-color copying by alerting to third party. However, that patent also fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 1.

In particular, none of the cited art discloses or suggests at least the feature of a determination unit that is running on the host computer OS and is constructed independently of the device driver of an image input-output device, as recited in Claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submit that the present invention recited in independent Claim 1 is patentable over the art of record, even if that art is combined.

The other independent claims recite features similar to those of Claim 1 discussed above and are believed to be patentable for reasons similar to Claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', written over a horizontal line.

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